**ENGL 3030: The Middle Ages**

***Endeavors: November 10, 2014***

<https://feudalendeavorfall2014.wikispaces.com/Endeavors>

**The Fireside Chat:** Discussion of any unit article (article links on Blackboard)

* Endeavors Activity

Article choices: Watkins, “Bedevilling the Histories of Medieval and Early Modern Drama”; Karras, “Holy Harlots”; Tolkien, “The Monsters and the Critics”; Byock, “Social Memory and the Sagas”; Zatta, “Translating the Historia”

* + During this activity, the group will choose ONE of the unit articles that we have read so far.
  + During this discussion, the group will devise and develop as thoroughly as possible at least ONE argument AGAINST the group’s chosen article.
  + ONE member of the group will be in charge of adding a post to the Chat Room with notes on the group’s argument. (Dr. T will comment on these later to provide feedback.)
* Purpose: This activity will 1) help us practice arguing against a source and 2) help us practice a required part of Checkpoint 4.

**The Guild:** Play Practice

* Endeavors Activity
  + During this activity, members of the group will discuss their roles, finalizing any props or costuming that their characters will need.
  + All members of the group should help think about the individual roles, their meaning, and potential methods of portraying the role in the performance.
  + For group without roles, each member will decide upon the role they will play and inform Dr. T at the end of class.
  + If a group finishes their discussion, they will then practice reading their lines.
* Purpose: This activity will help us continue to prepare for our play performance.

**The Scriptorium:** Sir John Mandeville (567-85, assigned 11/10)

Text Description – c. 1360:  *The Travels* “recounts the travels of Sir John Mandeville, whom the text identifies as an English knight…Mandeville claims to have left England for a great journey in 1322, traveling first to Egypt and Palestine, and then further east to India and China” (567). It has since been revealed as a “patchwork of allusions and borrowings from other sources” (567).

* Endeavors Activity
  + During this activity, the group will look closely at Sir John Mandeville’s *Travels*.
  + During this discussion, the group will select five significant quotations from the text and defend why these quotations were chosen.
  + ONE member of the group will be in charge of adding a post to the Chat Room with your quotations and defense of choices.
* Purpose: This activity will 1) provide us practice reading a text closely, 2) emphasize the necessity of grounding arguments in the text, and 3) provide us practice with supporting our choices of evidence.

**The Tournament:** An Ordeal with Geoffrey of Monmouth (157-79, assigned 11/10)

Text Description – 12th century: The *History* “recount(s) the history of the kings of Britain from before the time of Christ to the time of Cadwallader (689CE)” (157). His version of the origins of Britain stretches back to Troy. He is known for shaping a great deal of the historical Arthur. These excerpts focus on King Leir (Shakespeare’s King Lear), the end of the Roman period, and the exploits/history/death of King Arthur.

* Endeavors Activity
  + During this activity, each member of the group will have a minute to select a passage from Geoffrey of Monmouth’s text.
  + Then, each member will inform the person to their right of the selected passage.
  + That person will then have a few minutes to design as many questions as possible that are raised by that passage.
  + If there is time, at the end of that exercise, each person will bring their questions to the group as a whole, who will then decide if there are more questions that need to be asked.
* Purpose: This activity will 1) provide practice in questioning texts and 2) encourage us to think critically, particularly of texts that purport to be history.